

Promotions. Congratulations to the following USAF prosthodontists who were promoted at the last Medical/Dental Promotion Board:

To Col: Neal Andren; Hickam
Mike Horsley; Lakenheath
John Levon; Wright-Patterson
Regan Salamander; Peterson
Rick Smith; Lackland
Ron Verrett; Eglin

To Lt Col: Barb King; Osan
Al Sutton; Lackland

At a time when the promotion opportunities are limited, promotion candidates must often prepare years in advance so as to be competitive. As you serve the AF, therefore, plan accordingly to get the correct PME, to acquire board certification, and to seek out educational and career-enhancing opportunities.

American Board of Prosthodontics. The below listed individuals have completed the arduous path to board certification by the American Board of Prosthodontics. Without question, preparing for and taking the examination improves us as individuals and raises the level of AF prosthodontics. I applaud your efforts; best wishes for continued professional and AF success.

Lt Col Joe Gutierrez; Sheppard
Lt Col Ed Hill; Tinker
Lt Col Mike Lattner; Scott
Lt Col Dennis Kelly; Travis

Prosthodontic Resident Selection. The 1997 AF Dental Residency Selection Board occurred in October. Selected for prosthodontic training were:

James B. Graham, Luke, '98 start
Jay D. Graver, Lajes, '98 start
Daniel A. Savett, Lackland, '98 start
Donald J. Sheets, Barksdale, '99 start

Please congratulate them. They are entering an exciting, challenging, and rewarding residency.

At next year's selection board, there will be 13 prosthodontic residency training positions available. Many qualified applicants, therefore, are needed. I want your help! AF prosthodontists must be on the look-out for dentists interested in prosthodontics and /or prosthodontic training. Without your first-line recruitment, many potential candidates are never identified. Thanks for taking the time to assist these young officers.

AEGD-1 Programs. AEGD-1 programs are very popular with graduating dental students, and access to our AEGD-1 programs has become a key for recruitment of dental officers. As such, the expansion of our AEGD-1 programs is a cornerstone in the dental corps' strategic plan. If current plans come to fruition, by the year 2000 all existing programs will modestly expand, and, as seen below, new programs are targeted for inception:

Nellis; AEGD-1; 4 residents
Air Force Academy; AEGD-1, 4 residents
Kelly; AEGD-1; 4 residents
Lackland, GPR; 2 residents
Ramstein; AEGD-1; 2 residents (a total of 4 positions shared with the Army)
Hickam; AEGD-1; 2 residents (a total of 4 positions shared with the Navy and/or Army)

With our current shortage in dental specialties within the AF, and with the plans to expand our teaching mission, it is important that all of us prepare for a teaching assignment. If you are not instructing in formal education now, plan and organize for the possibility. Our highest manning priorities are to OCONUS and education.

ADA Codes. I am very interested in the problems or inconsistencies that you may be experiencing using the newly implemented ADA codes. Please e-mail me your input so that I can problem-solve and publicize solutions for you. A new AF Form 244 is under development so that we can request clinical privileges following the new code structure.

Credit for the restoration of implants has changed under the ADA codes. Code 6020, "Abutment Placement or Substitution," is the only significant credit awarded when an implant fixture is restored. The actual restoration of the abutment, once the abutment has been placed on the fixture, is credited like any other fixed prosthesis. For example, the restorative dentist would take credit for placement of a CeraOne abutment (Code 6020) and for an all-ceramic crown (Code 2740, "Porcelain/Ceramic Substrate") when a single fixture is restored using the CeraOne ceramic cap protocol.

E-Mail Addresses and Telephone Numbers.

The attached roster of prosthodontists includes e-mail addresses and phone numbers. The mailing address has been omitted to allow better organization of the material and to remove under-utilized information. Please ensure that your phone number and e-mail address are correct. We have no way to improve this list without your input. The listed phone number should be the best number for you and should ring in your duty location. Send any corrections to Ms Sally Sabater (DSN 554-7222) at "sabater@whmc-lafb.af.mil". I will mail an updated list in early 1998 if required.

Assignments. The 1998 assignment cycle will soon hit full stride. If I can be of any help to you, let's communicate by phone (DSN 554-7222) or e-mail (mansueto@whmc-lafb.af.mil). The e-mail system works well and reduces the frustrations of voice-mail and call-backs.

With current information, there are only a few OCONUS assignments in 1998--Kadena (O-6), Sembach (ADL), Lakenheath, Osan, and possibly Kadena (ADL). Consequently, this should be a minimal-move year. There also appears to be few teaching position openings.

An important teaching staff position that will be available in 1998 is the "Freshman Resident Training Officer" in the Prosthodontic Program at Lackland AFB TX. Interested (and eligible to move) prosthodontists should discuss this position with me.

Please refer to the enclosed information; I hope it helps with your planning.

AFI 47-101 and Implant Guidance. HQ/SGD has approved a re-look at the portion of AFI 47-101 governing implant procedures. There is growing concern that the instruction is a bit too restrictive and outdated. I will be drafting the suggested changes, drawing heavily on the ideas of Cols Mike Mills (Periodontics Consultant), Les Davenport (OMFS Consultant), and Steve Westbrook (General Dentistry Consultant). I am open to suggestions if any of you would like to share your opinions and experiences with me.

Prosthodontics Residency Staff. I am pleased to report to you that the prosthodontic teaching staff at MacKown Dental Clinic is a hard-working, dedicated, and talented group of educators. I am impressed with each of them. In case you want to discuss/ask them topic-specific questions, here is our current organization:

Col Ray Koeppen; Pros Dept Asst Chairman,
Removable Prosthodontics
Col Rick M. Smith; M/F Prosthodontics
Program Director, Implantology
Lt Col Randy Duncan; Residency Training
Officer
Lt Col Chuck DeFreest; Fixed Pros

Retirements. The AF will miss the outstanding leadership and significant contributions of the following prosthodontists who retired this year:

Col Grant Eshelman; Langley
Col Mac Felt; Offut
Col Herschel Kaufman; Davis Monthan
Col Dave Palmer; Keesler
Col Frank Sallustio; Luke
Col Steve Schmitt; Lackland
Col John Zurasky; McDill
Lt Col Tom Helbert, Kirtland

I know that we all wish them good luck. They will always be valued members of AF prosthodontic community. Hopefully, they will remember that all of us who remain on active

duty want to learn from their “after AF” experiences—both the successes and pitfalls.

Thanks. I am honored to have been selected as the Special Consultant in Prosthodontics to the Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Affairs and as the Chairman, Department of Prosthodontics at Lackland. Thanks Brig General Almquist for your confidence in me. I hope that I can live up to the task.

Michael A. Mansueto, Colonel, USAF, DC
Chairman, Department of Prosthodontics